

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 25) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2014 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2023:

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Democratic budget alternative offered by Ranking Member VAN HOLLEN, and I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be heard on this important issue. Today I am supporting the Van Hollen Budget and opposing the budget blueprint laid out by Budget Committee Chairman RYAN. The Van Hollen budget acknowledges the concerns that have been expressed to us loudly and clearly by constituents since sequestration took effect March 1st; the Ryan budget exacerbates the problems caused by across-the-board cuts and attempts to recycle ideas that the American people have repeatedly rejected.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, half of our current budget deficit is attributable to high unemployment and lagging economic growth. The approach taken by Chairman RYAN's budget would make the problem worse by cutting investments in education, research, and infrastructure. Implementing this kind of harmful austerity approach will handicap our fledgling economic recovery. The budget I voted for makes strategic cuts, closes tax loopholes, and lays a foundation for economic growth going forward. And perhaps most importantly, the Van Hollen budget ends the damaging sequester and puts our country on a sustainable fiscal path without ending the guarantee of Medicare.

In the months preceding our self-imposed March 1st deadline, sequestration was a central theme in almost every conversation I had with constituents. I spoke with researchers at universities across Oregon who expressed concern about the impact cuts would have on scientific advancement, business leaders who told me they had not hired new workers because of the uncertainty caused by sequestration, and teachers who worried about cuts to vital special education programs. Oregonians, like most Americans, do not support this detrimental approach to policymaking.

In the weeks following the implementation of the sequester, my offices in Oregon and here in Washington, DC continue to hear numerous additional stories of the hardships brought about by budget uncertainty. For those who rightly raise concern, the budget proposed by

Chairman RYAN is another example of DC putting politics over solutions. My constituents want fiscal responsibility from their elected officials; not a budget balanced on the back of the working class and the elderly.

Congress has reduced projected deficits by about \$2.7 trillion since August 2010 by cutting discretionary spending, increasing tax rates for families with taxable income over \$450,000 a year, and eliminating related debt servicing. The combination of deficit reduction included in Ranking Member VAN HOLLEN's budget and the total deficit reduction achieved to date meets the \$4 trillion goal set forth by the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles Commission. Further, the Van Hollen alternative I am supporting today achieves this deficit reduction without implementing the Ryan budget's Medicare voucher plan, while also preserving the Affordable Care Act reforms that currently provide seniors with reduced prescription drug costs and free preventive health care.

Our constituents sent us here to solve the problems created by our predecessors, not to make them worse. The Van Hollen budget alternative puts us on the road to economic recovery while preserving the social safety net. For this reason I am proud to support it.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT BRYON
KOSTER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bryon Koster of Van Meter, Iowa for achieving the rank of an Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his project, Bryon designed and constructed a prayer labyrinth at the St. Boniface Church in Waukee, Iowa. The work ethic Bryon has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Bryon and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him on obtaining

the Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
RIVERS COUNCIL

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New Hampshire Rivers Council as it celebrates its 20th Anniversary. The Rivers Council grew out of the New Hampshire Rivers Campaign, a group of concerned citizens and conservation organizations that united in 1985 to create a voice for New Hampshire rivers. Thanks to the Campaign and the Council, the Rivers Program is celebrating its 20th anniversary with 1000 miles of rivers designated into the state program since 1988. Recognizing the need for a permanent and active voice for river protection in the state, the participants in the campaign formed the New Hampshire Rivers Council.

Over the last 20 years, the New Hampshire Rivers Council has made many significant contributions to river and watershed conservation in the Granite State. For example, the Rivers Council worked with grassroots organizations to implement minimum water levels on protected rivers, worked with the Governor's Commission on Land and Community Heritage to recommend a new, permanent and adequately funded program for land conservation, and joined other New Hampshire organizations to negotiate a creative license agreement for the 15-Mile Falls Dam on the Connecticut River that provides better protection to the river ecosystem and preserved nearly 12,000 acres of land on the river and surrounding the Connecticut Lakes.

The history and character of New Hampshire is largely defined by its rivers and the directors and growing membership of the Rivers Council continue to make significant contributions to river and watershed conservation and restoration, ensuring New Hampshire's natural resources will be enjoyed for generations to come.

Today, the New Hampshire Rivers Council is the only statewide organization dedicated to the protection and conservation of New Hampshire's river resources and whose leadership was instrumental in the establishment of the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program. I ask the House of Representatives to join me to acknowledge and thank those individuals who had the vision to create the Rivers Campaign nearly thirty years ago and to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the New Hampshire Rivers Council today.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
